2: 27. 1894; Talbot, Trees Bombay 67: 1894; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 1: 319. 1902 & 1: 340. 1958 (repr. ed.); Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 312. 1918 & 1: 221. 1957 (repr. ed.); Brandis, Ind. Trees 218. 1921. *I. flaccida* Koen. ex Roxb. var. *constricta* Thwaites, Enum. Pl. 411. 1864. [PAPILIONACEAE].

Thwaites (1864) first described this species as a variety of *I. flaccida* without any mention about the floral parts. Baker (Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 2: 99. 1876) in a note under *I. tinctoria* Linn. remarked, "*I. flaccida* var. *constricta* Thwaites, Enum. 411, from Ceylon, is probably a distinct species, but the flowers are unknown" Trimen (1894) has also stated ". very rare pet. not seen." The same lacuna in the description has continued in the floras of Talbot (1894), Cooke (1902), Gamble (1918) and Brandis (1921). In all the above floras, it has been indicated as a rare plant. The authors collected this rare and interesting species recently with numerous flowers.

Flowers ± 6 mm long, many, lax in axillary, long peduncled racemes; pedicels ± 1.5 mm long, appressed silky; bracts ± 1 × 0.5 mm, lanceolate, densely silky. Calyx ± 2 mm long, appressed hairy without, 5-toothed; teeth ± 1 mm long, subequal, ovate, acute; tube ± 2 mm across, cupular. Corolla ± 6 mm long, scarlet, appressed pubescent without; standard petal ± 6 × 4 mm, broadly oblong-obovate, obtuse at apex, sessile; wing petals ± 6 × 2 mm, obliquely oblong, slightly adherent to the keel, caducous; keel petals ± 5.5 × 1.7 mm, obliquely spathulate, obtuse, united up to their middle, spurred on each side near the base. Stamens ± 5 mm long, 9+1, anthers apiculate. Ovary ± 4 mm long, linear-oblong, glabrous; style ± 1.5 mm long, slightly inflexed, glabrous; Stigma capitate (Figs. 1-5).

Specimens examined: INDIA: KARNATAKA; North Kanara dt., Nilkund Ghaut, 10-12-1884, *Collector?* s. n. (acc. no. 13973, MH); *idem*, 4-12-1883, *Talbot* 788 (CAL); *idem*, 15-2-1883, *Talbot* 320 (CAL); Supa, 5-4-1894, *Talbot* 3149 (CAL); KERALA: Quilon dt., Plapalli to Muzhiar power house, Ranni R. F., 250 m, 22-11-1976, *Chandrabose* 49159 (MH); Kavalay Cochin, 610 m, Nov. 1910, *Meebold* 12326 (CAL). CEYLON: Ceylon, *Collector?* C. P. 3811 (TYPE, MH).

Flowering and Fruiting: September-January.

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M. CHANDRABOSE AND S. R. SRINIVASAN
Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore

NEW AND RARE PLANT FROM NORTH EASTERN INDIA

The following species, recorded earlier from Nepal, Kumaon, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim, but nowhere from North Eastern India, are described here with analytical drawings to facilitate their further discovery and identification in the field.

CAMPANULACEAE

Codonopsis purpurea Wall. in Roxb. Fl. Ind. 2: 105. 1824; C. B. Clarke in Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 431. 1881 (Fig. 2).

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Rambling glabrous herb. *Stem* reddish, diffuse, swollen at nodes. *Leaves* 6 × 2.2 cm, opposite, elliptic-oblong, glaucous beneath; *petiole* 5 mm long; *midrib* prominent, lateral nerves 4-5 on either side; peduncle axillary and terminal, 1.8 cm long. *Flowers* solitary, purple; *calyx-teeth* ovate, 1.6 × 0.7 cm, acute, glaucous; *corolla* campanulate, 2.2 cm long; *stigma* 3-lobed, recurved.

Flowering and fruiting: August-September.

Specimens examined: MEGHALAYA: Lailankote, 1525 m Khasi Hills, 26.9.1886, *Clarke* 44864 (in ripe-fruit shows no relics of the corolla-Clarke) (CAL.); Shillong, 1220 m, Aug. 1890, *Collett* 30 (CAL.); Nongkrem, 1240 m, Sept. 1890, *Collett* 90 (CAL); Smith village, 24.8.1969, *Allen* 16657 (ASSAM).

In identifying *Collett* 30, *Collett* 90 and *Clarke* 44864 cited above, C. B. Clarke, from Kew (U.K.) wrote to H. Collett in Calcutta in June 1890 "... the branchlets are subligneous opposite, the leaves all opposite. The capsules are very large, recurved when ripe, 3-carpellary, the conical raised disc as in *Codonopsis*. But the seeds are very different much-large-inflated. The flower is almost certainly large Campanulaceous." In another letter, in Oct. 1890, he wrote, further regarding *Clarke* 44864, ". that the plant is undoubtedly *Codonopsis purpurea* Wall.-agreeing altogether with the typical plant" and to distinguish *Codonopsis* Wall. from *Platycodon* A. DC., he wrote that although the seeds of both approach genericaally ".. In *Platycodon* it (corolla) is angular and very much narrowed at the base. The leaves also in *Platycodon* are acutely serrate, very unlike those of *Codonopsis*." Clarke did not attach much importance to the character of stigma which Bentham relied upon.

Collett in a foot note on Clarke's manuscript letter wrote "It is very singular that this plant should not have been previously recorded from Kasiah as it is abundant at Nongkrem." It is significant to note that although:

(i) recorded (*see* Clarke 1881: 431) from Nepal and Kumaon in the N-W India, no specimen from these localities are available for study in the CNH (CAL.);

(ii) collected as far back as 1886 from the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya, the occurrence of this species in Meghalaya was not recorded by Kanjilal and Das in the *Flora of Assam* or by any other botanist up-to-date.

Distribution: Nepal, India (Kumaon, Meghalaya).

POLYGONACEAE

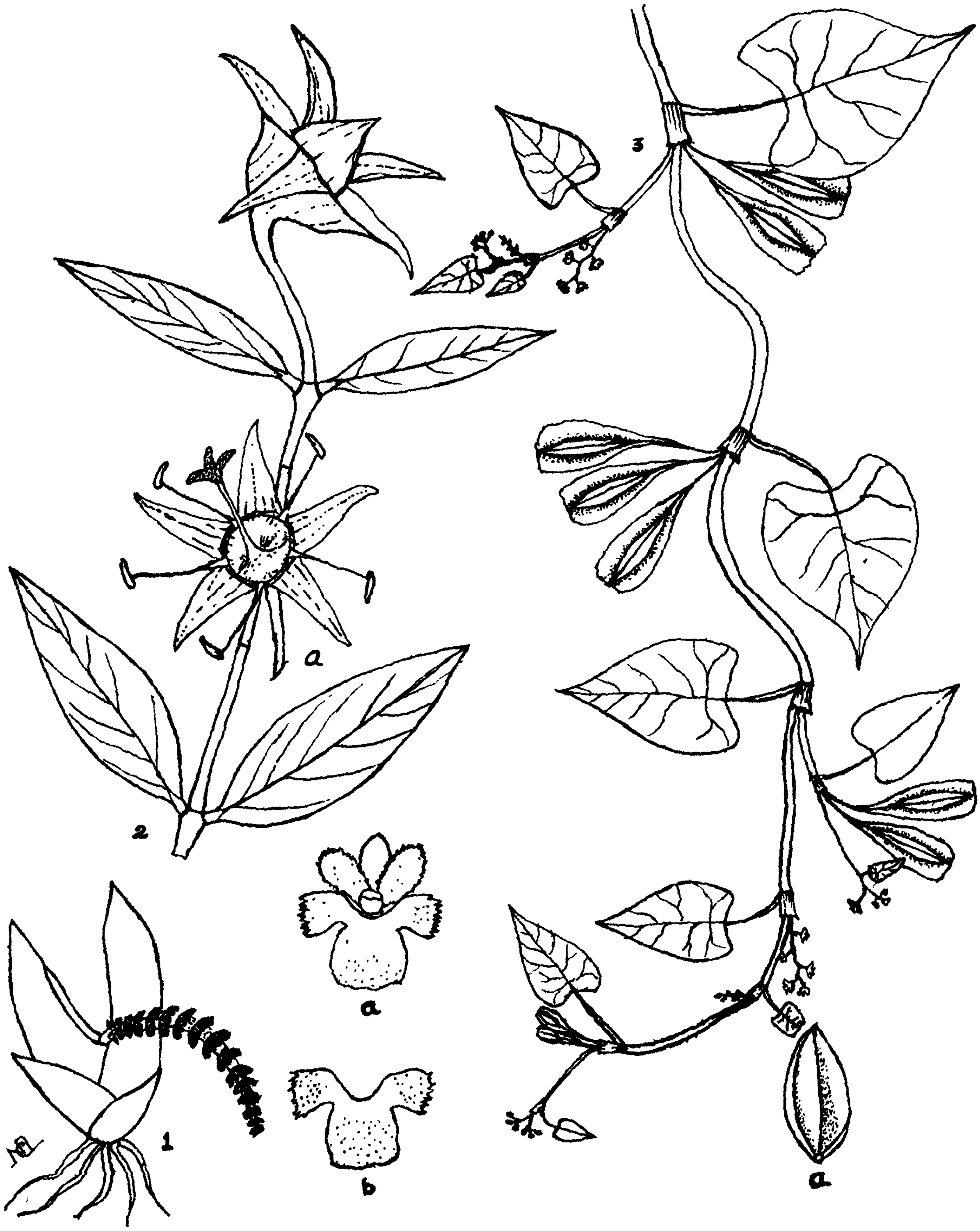
Polygonum dumetorum Linn. Sp. Pl. ed. 2: 521. 1762; J. D. Hooker in Fl. Brit. Ind. 5: 54. 1886; Steward in Contrib. Gray Herb. Harv. Univ. 5 (88): 94. 1930; Nair in Fl. Bashar Himal. 244. 1977. (Fig. 3).

Annual twining herb. *Leaves* 3-7.5 × 1.6-4.5 cm, cordate, ovate, acuminate, puberulous on both surfaces; *petiole* 1.5-5.5 cm, slender. *Flowers* small, whitish; *fruiting perianth* winged, 9 mm long; *nut* 5(-6) × 2 mm, black, triangular, ellipsoid.

Flowering and fruiting: June and December.

Specimens examined: WESTERN HIMALAYA: Himachal Pradesh, Dalhousie, 1370 m, 26.9.1874, *C. B. Clarke* 23145 D, E (CAL.); Chamba, 900 m, 4.10.1874, *C. B. Clarke* 23772 (CAL.); near Pangi, 2750 m, 4.8.1890, *J. H. Lace* 473 (CAL.); Reswal, 7.8.1973, *K. P. Janardhanan* 52544 (CAL.); Himal. Bor. Occ. Regio. Temp. 1800-2440 m, *T Thomson*, s. n. (CAL. 375188); Jammu & Kashmir, Sonamarg 3050 m, 29.8.1876, *C. B. Clarke* 69 (CAL.); near Gurais, 2440 m, 7.9.1893, *J. F. Duthie* 14000 (CAL.). EASTERN HIMALAYA: Arunachal Pradesh, Rupa, Kameng, *Joseph* 40390 and *A. S. Rao* 50390 (ASSAM).

This species has sometimes been confused with *Polygonum pterocarpum* Wall. re-



Figs. 1-3: 1. *Oberonia demissa* Lindl. × 1. 1a. Flower × 20. 1b. Lip × 20. 2. *Codonopsis purpurea* Wall. × 1. 2a. Flower after removing corolla tube × 1. 3. *Polygonum dumetorum* Linn × 1. 3a. Nut × 4.

stricted to North West Himalaya, from which, however, it may be distinguished as follows:

Wings of the fruit prolonged little, if at all, along the pedicel; fruit, including pedicel, about 1 cm long ... *P. dumetorum*
Wings of the fruit prolonged towards the base of the pedicel; fruit, including pedicel, 1.5-2 cm long ... *P. pterocarpum*

Distribution: Europe, North and West Asia, INDIA (Kunawar to Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh).

ORCHIDACEAE

Oberonia demissa Lindl. Fol. Orchid. Oberon. 4: 1859; J. D. Hooker in Ic. Plant. t. 1785 B. 1888 and in Fl. Brit. Ind. 5: 680. 1888; King and Pantling in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. 8: 9. 1898; Seidenfaden and Smitinand in The Orchids of Thailand, part II, no. 1: 157. 1959. (Fig. 1).

Small tufted epiphyte. *Leaves* 3.5-4 × 0.8 × 1 cm, coriaceous, linear, oblong, acute, falcate, uppermost leaf grooved. *Scape* 3 cm long, erect or recurved, densely flowered, obscurely whorled; *bract* 1.5 mm, green, ovate, acute, erose-dentate; *flowers* minute, 1-2 mm across, greenish-yellow; *sepals* subequal, orbicular, 0.8-1 mm long, entire, reflexed; *petals* elliptic, obtuse, erose-dentate; spreading; *lip* about 1 mm long, reddish, 3-lobed; *lateral lobes* oblong, blunt, falcate, erose-dentate; *mid-lobe* quadrate-orbicular with broad emarginate apex, erose-dentate edges; *column* very short; ovary about 1 mm greenish.

Flowering and fruiting: July-November.

Specimens examined: SIKKIM: Tropical valleys, July 1892, *Pantling* 238 (CAL.); Valleys of the Teesta, Oct. 1898, *Pantling* 238 (CAL.). MEGHALAYA: Pontung Forest, Jaintea Hill, *A. S. Rao* 56756 (ASSAM).

Distribution: India (Sikkim, Meghalaya).

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N. C. DEORI
Botanical Survey of India, Shillong
AND
G. C. DAS
Botanical Survey of India, Howrah

COELOGYNE GLANDULOSA LINDL. AND ITS TWO NEW VARIETIES

During a recent study of the genus *Coelogyne* in India, the authors found that the taxonomy of *C. glandulosa* was in confusion with *C. mossiae,* chiefly due to faulty protologue and later erroneous interpretation of the latter species. This point was discussed in detail and the description of *C. mossiae* amended by us in a recent work (Das and Jain 1978). The characters involved in this confusion were the size and shape of leaves and number and nature of keels. As a result of our study, two new varieties of *C. glandulosa* have been discovered.

We have studied several specimens having two keels and short leaves like the ones illustrated by Rolfe for *C. mossiae* in Gardner's Chronicle (1894), by Pfitzer and Kanzlin in Pflanzenreich (1907) and by Fyson in Flora of Nilgiri and Pulney Hill-tops (1915). The facies of these plants is different from true *C. mossiae* and in spite of their two keels it is considered not proper to place them under *C. mossiae.* These plants resemble *C. glandulosa* in their facies and

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